

International Reference

No.

PCT/EP03/01600

PROVISIONAL INTERNATIONAL REPORT OF EXAMINATION

I. Basis for the Report

1. Regarding the **components** of the international application (*substitute pages, which were submitted to the Patent Office in response to a request pursuant to Article 14, are considered within the framework of this report as "originally filed", and are not enclosed with the report, since they do not include any revisions. (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*):

**Specification, pages:**

1-5,9 original version

**Patent Claims, no.:**

1-10 original version

**Drawings, pages:**

1/2-2/2 original version

V. Substantiated Determination According to Article 35(2) with Respect to Novelty, Inventive Activity, and Industrial Applicability; Documents and Clarifications in Support of this Determination

1. DETERMINATION

Novelty	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive	Claims 1-10	YES
Activity	Claim	NO
Industrial	Claims 1-10	YES
Applicability	Claims	NO

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2. Documents and Clarifications

See supplemental sheet.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

Re Section V

Substantiated Determination According to Article 35(2) with Respect to Novelty, Inventive Activity, and Industrial Applicability; Documents and Clarifications in Support of this Determination

DE 19917392 discloses a rack-and-pinion steering system having the features of the preamble of Claim 1.

The subject matter of this claim differs from this closest related art in that the pressure-equalizing element is integrated in the pressure piece.

Therefore, the subject matter of Claim 1 is novel under Article 33(2) PCT.

The object may be regarded as simplifying the production of a rack-and-pinion steering system having a pressure equalizer, by eliminating the separate bore for the pressure-equalizing element.

The subject matter of Claim 1 achieves this object with the aid of the features of the characterizing part and is therefore inventive under Article 33(3) PCT.

Claims 2-10 are dependent from Claim 1, and therefore, they are also novel and inventive.

Commercial applicability is found in the automotive industry.